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Alien Encounters

Medfield resident Joe Nyman, who has been studying UFOs for more than 25 years, has talked to hundreds of people who claim to have been abducted by aliens. He has chronicled the stories of more than two dozen alleged abductees, whose experiences range from the tame to the bizarre. The following are some examples.

He is working to reconstruct the alleged alien encounter of a 37-year-old MetroWest woman artist, who several years ago suddenly became compelled to paint pictures with strong UFO themes.

The woman, whom Nyman believes may be trying to work through a suppressed childhood encounter with aliens, has only one conscious memory of seeing a UFO. She recalls seeing a bright light flash past the window of her Boston home one summer night when she was a teen ager.

She also remembers standing outside barefoot at 2 a.m. that same day, watching two vehicles with round lights make right angle turns in the sky. Her mother called her into the house. When questioned about the incident, her mother said she does not remember how she knew her daughter was outdoors, according to Nyman.

Probing during seven hypnosis sessions revealed that the woman had apparently been abducted by aliens that night, taken aboard their aircraft, and examined, Nyman said.

The woman's description of the beings included pear-shaped heads divided into two distinct lobes. An independent researcher in Tennessee investigated a case in which the aliens had the same characteristics.

The woman, who Nyman says is quite defensive about the experience, has been unable to finish her story under hypnosis because of a psychological block.

Another case Nyman has researched centered on an incident involving a 13-year-old boy who lived in Foxboro in December 1980.

The boy, who was waiting at his home for a 6:45 p.m. ride to a Boy Scout meeting ran out to the back yard to see if the ground was too frozen for him to ride his dirt bike to school the next day.

As he was bending over the ground, he heard a noise that he described to Nyman as "someone rubbing their finger across the tip of a wine glass."

When he looked up, hovering over him was a saucer-shaped object with an estimated 35-foot diameter and lights in its many windows. As the boy watched the vehicle, a beam of light shot from its base, striking him in the chest, Nyman said.

The boy recalled a tingling sensation in his legs, and found he was paralyzed. Ultimately - though the boy could not estimate how long it took - the light withdrew and he was able to free himself and run into his house.

His mother, who used to work with Mutual UFO Network member Ray Fowler, listened to her frightened son's story, but ushered him off to his meeting. Then she called Fowler.

By 9 p.m., Nyman and MUFON member Ed Fogg had checked the Foxboro police log for reports of UFO sightings and had arrived at the boy's home, awaiting his return.

During the duo's interview with the boy, he recalled a "mumbling" in his head, as if someone was trying to communicate with him. He was unable to decipher the message.

Slowly, other details of the boy's experience emerged. When Nyman and Fogg asked the boy to remove his shirt, they discovered a marking similar to a sunburn, which ran from the top of his breastbone tracing a narrow line under both sides of his rib cage. The pair photographed the marking.

In subsequent research, Nyman found evidence of similar markings on a young man in Tyler, Tex., who claimed a similar abduction experience several years later.

The boy, who had the habit of talking in his sleep about events that had upset him during the day, went to bed that night about 11:15 p.m. Fifteen minutes later, he started mumbling. His parents placed a tape recorder next to the bed and let him continue.

According to Nyman, the boy relived his encounter twice that night over the course of more than 30 minutes.

"Oh no! What the hell, it's a UFO!" the boy shouted into the tape. "What's happening? What are you guys doing? I don't wanna go on. Don't do any more tests on me. Oh no, no, no. Don't do any more tests. Who are you? Are you an earth person?"

Months later, the boy was taken to a hypnotist, who allowed him to relive the night's encounter.

Under hypnosis, the boy immediately recognized the "mumbling" he heard that night. "Something's telling me something," the boy told the hypnotist and Nyman. "It's a calm voice running through my mind, soothing me. I don't understand... The ship comes closer. I'm able to run. I hit the baseball bat and fall down. I look up. It's looking at me. Something's looking at me still! No one could hear me. I got to get out of here. This is it. The light really gets intense.

"I won't be harmed. They're just going to examine me... It's a person. Has a big head, small body. He's floating across the window of the ship. It's talking and looking at me. Then it stops. I can't understand it. I run and it just stays where it is... His eyes are big, nose long, no mouth."

Under questioning, the boy said the alien was a "friendly" person.

Nyman also investigated a 1984 Framingham case, in which a man in his mid-20s awoke abruptly on a cold January night to experience what Nyman calls the classic "bedroom encounter."

The man recalls lying fully awake, with his eyes closed, about 1:30 a.m., feeling an irritation in his left eye. He did not wake up his wife.

He felt a slight breeze at the top of his head from the open window behind the bed's headboard. Year-round, he and his wife slept with the window about three inches open.

The man tried to rub his irritated eye, but found he could not move. When he eventually was able to open his eyes, he saw what appeared to be a mirror on the ceiling reflecting a green, pencil-thin beam of light that shot directly into his right eye.

In the mirror, he thought he saw a tiny head holding an object that he said resembled a hair dryer. The man had the strange sensation that his mind was being read.

He struggled to free himself. Ultimately, he succeeded, jumping up and rushing to the window. He pulled up the shade, just in time to see an aircraft the size and shape of a 55-gallon drum, with a set of tripod legs, rising from the ground. Green and orange lights glowed inside the craft.

According to Nyman, the man was very upset, believing he would soon die. The next morning, he awoke with continued irritation in his left eye. Several days later, the irritation disappeared.

Think you've encountered an alien in your lifetime? Call the Massachusetts UFO Network Hotline at 944-0686.

KAREN KREBSBACH

UFOs Over MetroWest

By JAMES J. BUCKLEY

A Marlboro cab driver, who had just dropped off a passenger at the Wayside Inn in Sudbury, claims that his headlights started flickering on and off as he approached Rte. 20 near the Martha and Mary Chapel on a rainy September night in 1965.

As he pulled off the road, he heard a noise overhead and saw a disc hovering about 200 feet over his head. He saw colorful sparks flying from its sides and heard a high-pitched whine. The disc hovered for about five minutes and then flew away to the west.

Following are a few of the other UFO sightings in MetroWest over the years. A Weston resident reported that at about 5:55 p.m. on January 15, 1966 his 11-year-old son dashed into the house shouting that a flying saucer was outside. The man grabbed his binoculars and went outside with his family to look. He saw what at first appeared to be an extremely bright star and immediately assumed it was a low-flying plane. But when a strange trajectory of light burst from the object, he was convinced that the object could not be an airplane. His wife thought it might be a satellite that had begun to disintegrate. However, there was no record of any plane or satellite in the vicinity that evening.

According to New England historian Edward Rowe Snow, a flying saucer was seen over Rte. 2 in Acton on Oct. 17, 1973. Waiting for a red light to change, Kevin and his sister, Ann Mary, who were returning from a funeral in Boston, suddenly saw a brilliant light some distance away in the sky. There were no stars out that night and it was very dark so the light was especially bright. As the object approached them, the light grew brighter.

When the light was hovering overhead, Kevin pulled the car off the road, hoping that some other car would come along to verify the existence of the strange light. But none came as he and his sister stood in awe of the light above them. As they became accustomed to the bright light, they saw a disc. They lost their nerve at that point, hopped into their car and sped away.

Patrolman Stephen Trefry reported that he saw two UFOs in Boxboro about 10:10 p.m. on a mid-October night in 1985. As soon as his report was made public, a Prescott Road resident came forth to report that she had seen two round orange balls high over the pasture bounded by Depot and Prescott roads as she was driving to work one morning.

According to this woman, the lights were about six feet apart. She didn't pull over to investigate what she was convinced was a UFO, but as soon as she heard Trefry's tale she wished she had.

Just last month Westboro police were called by a resident who reported that he saw a triangular object hovering overhead when he rushed outside to determine the source of a loud noise. He climbed up on his roof to catch a better view but the noise stopped after a few minutes and the UFO quickly flew away. In an attempt to prove that he hadn't been imagining the whole episode, the man asked his neighbors if they had heard or seen anything unusual that night. One neighbor across the street said he, too, had heard the strange noise but he hadn't gone out to investigate because he had been on the telephone at the time.